

OUR CURRICULUM

STROUD HIGH SCHOOL

Our curriculum is designed to prepare bright young people with knowledge, understanding and skills to succeed in the 21st Century, and be ready to take a leading role in their communities. We aim to support transition at key points in a student's academic journey. We also intend to provide our young people with the challenge, skills and attributes to have the personal and intellectual ability to thrive independently.

Stroud High School students have a curriculum that sets them up for the next stage of their lives. In almost all cases this is Higher Education. The curriculum and student experience prepare students to excel at GCSE and then undertake a personalised pathway at A Level. They secure places at the very best universities, aspirational apprenticeship programmes and pursue wide-ranging careers – all united by the belief that they can make a positive impact in the world around them.

Our curriculum develops five key domains of knowledge, understanding and skills.

These evolve and advance throughout the Key Stages:

- Literacy, Language, Communication & Culture
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths
- Character, Health, Wellbeing & Social Responsibility (Key Stages 3&4), Personal Development & Preparing for Next Steps (Key Stage 5)
- The World, the Past, Ideas & Spirituality (Key Stages 3&4), Humanities & Social Sciences (Key Stage 5)
- Design, Creativity & the Performing Arts



KS3 CURRICULUM

The foundations for success of our students are built in Key Stage 3. They experience a broad curriculum of discovery.

In Key Stage 3, students develop the skills to be an effective learner. They are inspired to be curious, ask questions and become intellectually confident. The curriculum encourages them to deepen their understanding of themselves and aspire to their personal best. The student experience in Key Stage 3 underpins the transition into their own bespoke curriculum in Key Stage 4.



Literacy, Language, Communication & Culture	Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths	Character, Health, Wellbeing & Social Responsibility	The world, the Past, Ideas & Spirituality	Design, Creativity, Performance & the Arts
English Language English Literature French German Spanish	Maths Science Computing & IT	Personal Development Curriculum Star Awards Citizenship (incl British Values) PSHCE Physical Education Careers Education Extracurricular Opportunities	Geography History RE	Design Technology Art Music Drama

KS4 CURRICULUM

Students personalise the Key Stage 4 curriculum around their own preferences, and are encouraged to enhance their understanding of themselves as high performance learners. Independent advice and guidance is available to support students when making curriculum choices. In this Key Stage, students study a core of English Language, English Literature, Maths and Science (combined or separate) and then an additional four choices (or three if a student is studying Biology, Physics and Chemistry as individual GCSEs).

Along with their nine GCSE subjects, students follow a programme of Personal Development, Citizenship, Physical Education and Ethics. These are key components of our curriculum that develop students as healthy, well-informed, open-minded young people prepared to make considered decisions.

Key Stage 4 students build upon the foundations of their prior learning and focus on deeper engagement with concepts, ideas and knowledge. There is a focus on study skills, developing intellectual confidence and deliberate practice.



Literacy, Language, Communication & Culture	Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths	Character, Health, Wellbeing & Social Responsibility	The world, the Past, Ideas & Spirituality	Design, Creativity, Performance & the Arts
English Language English Literature French German Spanish	Maths Further Maths Combined Science Biology Physics Chemistry Computer Science	Personal Development Curriculum Citizenship (incl British Values) PSHCE Physical Education Core Ethics Careers Education Extracurricular Opportunities	Geography History Philosophy & Ethics Business Studies Sociology	Product Design Food & Nutrition Art Textiles Photography Fine Art Graphics Music Drama

KS5 CURRICULUM

Stroud High Sixth Form students tailor their curriculum based on their own intellectual and creative interests. Students are able to choose from a broad selection of 26 A Level subjects. The majority of students will pursue their passions by studying three A Levels, but there is the option to study a fourth - for example Further Maths.

Alongside A Levels, students will study an enriching additional academic qualification of their choice. This could be the Extended Project Qualification, Gold Crest Award or Core Maths.

Our personalised curriculum pathways offer exciting opportunities for students to work with industry specialists who will guide and mentor students on their learning journey.

Scholarship lies at the heart of our Key Stage 5 learning experience. Students are encouraged to invest time in exploring their chosen subject disciplines in depth. Our structured scholarship programme aims to develop independent study.

We have a robust transition programme in place for students progressing through SHS or joining our Sixth Form from other schools. Students are supported in this transition in both subject-specific academic skills and the development of cognitive capabilities.

We are proud that our Sixth Form students mature into lifelong learners ready to make their mark in the world.



Literacy, Language, Communication & Culture	Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths	Personal Development & Preparing for Next Steps	Humanities & Social Sciences	Design, Performance & the Creative Arts
English Literature French German Spanish	Maths Further Maths Biology Physics Chemistry Computer Science Core Maths Gold Crest Award	Pathways Broadening Horizons Programme Scholarship & Independence Extended Project Qualification Leadership & Volunteering	Geography History Philosophy & Ethics Sociology Psychology Politics Business Studies Economics	Product Design Art Textiles Fine Art Drama Physical Education Music Graphics Photography

SHS LEARNING BEHAVIORS

Through the Teaching and Learning at Stroud High school students are explicitly taught VAAs and ACPs – skills to support them to become successful, effective learners. These high-performance learning terms underpin the language used within the classroom and students are given the opportunity to practise skills across subject curriculums.

Years 7 and 8 learn about the VAAs and ACPs in their Personal Development lessons and through the introduction to the 'Star Awards' in tutor time as they transition into life at SHS. Years 9 and Year 10 students develop these skills and attributes further in their PSHE lessons and as part of the Empowered Learning programme. Years 11, 12 and 13 engage with these terms in their lessons and these concepts support their scholarship work at Advanced Level.



Values, Attitudes & Attributes (VAAs)	Advanced Cognitive Performance Characteristics (ACPs)	
BEING EMPATHETIC Collaborative Concerned for society Confident	META-THINKING Meta-cognition Self-regulation Strategy-planning Intellectual Confidence	CREATING Intellectual Playfulness Flexible thinking Fluent thinking Originality Evolutionary or revolutionary thinking
AGILE THINKING Enquiring Creative and enterprising Open-minded Risk taking	LINKING Generalisation Connection finding Big Picture thinking Abstraction Imagination Seeing alternative perspectives	REALISING Automaticity Speed and accuracy
HARD WORK Practice Perseverance Resilience	ANALYSING Critical or logical thinking Precision Complex or multi step problem solving	

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Personal Development and Enrichment Curriculum is structured to enable all of our students to have a wide range of opportunities to develop their skills further beyond the classroom, providing our students with the challenge, skills and attributes to thrive independently and contribute to their communities. It is structured to build the qualities and skills of resilience, leadership, self-regulation and communication, alongside a passion for learning across a wide variety of disciplines.

The Personal Development and Enrichment Curriculum is designed with precision to stretch across all pillars of the curriculum and has key components:

- Period 6
- House Activities
- School Trips and Visits
- Responsibility and Leadership
- Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular activities

Period 6

Period 6 is the last period of each day, in which we enable our students to experience activities beyond the curriculum. It is a bespoke programme of different activities covering all areas of the curriculum, dependent on the year group supporting the personal development of our students.

In Years 7 and 8 it enables our students to come together as a tutor group, as well undertake a variety of different activities including whole year group choir. In Year 9 the students have more choice in their activities, but they also come together as tutor group to undertake challenges such as Famelab, House Music and Drama. By working together as a tutor group in House Activities, they not only learn new skills in Music and Drama but also valuable skills in team work, strategy planning, flexible thinking and self-regulation as a group. In Years 10 and 11 the students have free choice of activities including subject intervention sessions, they continue the Empowered Learning Programme and have small group mentoring with a dedicated staff mentor.



School Trips and Visits

The programme of school trips throughout the year is designed to complement the learning of the students, broaden their horizons and also develop their personal skills. The programme of school trips is comprehensive in extending all areas of the curriculum. As part of our commitment to all students, we work with parents/carers and students to make trips and visits accessible to all both financially and physically.

Internationalism

Internationalism is a complementary element of the Curriculum, in the personal development of our students and an intrinsic part of our Trips and Visit programme.

To enable our students to experience other cultures and countries our programme of trips and visits throughout Years 7 to 13 is designed to develop increasing independence in our students starting with residential trips aboard in Year 8, to a full suite of exchanges and international work experience, to international travel requiring the study of languages ab initio and international collaborative working.

SHS has held the Full International School Award since 2010, an award that has to be re-applied for every 3 years each time demonstrating a growing and widening international dimension to the curriculum and wider school life. Curriculum teams include projects with a global dimension in their scheme of work, and many also run trips to destinations across Europe as part of their courses to broaden and deepen student understanding of the topics being studied in the classroom. Previously, many departments have contributed to cross-curricular, long-term international projects such as Comenius and Erasmus+ for which we successfully bid five consecutive times and enabled us to not only collaborate in producing elaborate final products but to also have exchange visits with up to 7 partner schools from across Europe. Outside the classroom we have been equally active in developing partnerships, for example, linking with Hanbit High School in South Korea for over 4 years, sending delegations to both The United Nations Conference on the Status of Women and the Geneva Youth Parliament, and providing opportunities for tourism travel across the globe during short holidays and month-long summer expeditions to explore more remote areas and work with less wealthy communities.

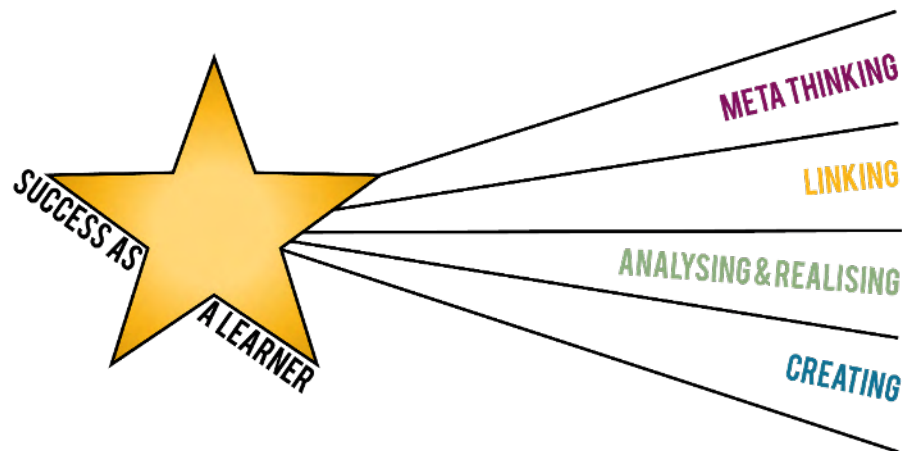
Post-Covid, we were keen to quickly re-establish these fantastic opportunities to our students as part of our broader offer and 2022-23 saw a wide range of trips, visits and collaborations. We have applied for, and were granted funding for our third Turing Scheme Project - the UK offer that replaces Erasmus+ post-Brexit; this year-long project built on our existing links with Hanbit High School in South Korea and Mahasarakham University Secondary School in Thailand, and further expand our links to include a school in Japan. This largely student-led project called 'A Positive Future' will involve students across the curriculum and age groups collaborating on a number of pieces of work with their peers in those countries focusing on improving and maintaining international relations and trade while prioritising environmental concern as well as being able to undertake exchange visits.

Positions of Responsibility and Leadership

It is a key priority of Stroud High School that students can progress to make a positive impact on the world around them, and they have the skills and attributes to be able to take on leading roles within their communities and in their future pathways. There are a wide number of leadership responsibilities available to all students at Stroud High School every year:

- Form Leader
- Deputy Form Leader
- RAGRep
- Sports Ambassador
- Languages Ambassador
- International Ambassador

Additionally, leadership opportunities emerge and develop as the academic year progresses. The Senior Sixth Form students can apply to be a part of the Student Leadership Team and we have been able to expand this team over the past few years which now includes Heads of Diversity, Eco, Junior Student Leadership, Media, RAG, Student Council, Wellbeing as well as Heads of House and Learning Leaders. These students work with the whole school community to make a difference and elicit positive change.



YEARS 7&8 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Star Awards

The Star Awards are unique to Stroud High and capture the exciting opportunities that the students have as part of their journey with us in Years 7 and 8. It guides our students into becoming effective learners, by focusing on the skills, behaviours and characteristics they need to be confident and successful young people.

Based on the High Performance Learning principles, an educational philosophy which underpins our approach to learning at SHS, we believe that all of our students can be successful. The Star Awards allow each student to document their own personal achievements and reflect on their own experiences at the start of their Stroud High School career.

The Star Awards also allow students to consider their habits and how to actively manage their wellbeing:

- Healthy habits
- Getting involved
- Healthy relationships
- Compassion and kindness

Students document their journey through the completion of the Star Awards, and we celebrate their success at the end of Year 8 with the award of Gold, Silver and Bronze stars.

Period 6

All students in Years 7 and 8 will participate in the following this academic year:

- Whole year group choir (once per fortnight throughout the academic year)
- Team building sessions
- Star Awards preparation
- Tutor quiz
- House competition Friday
- Time together as a tutor group

Extra-Curricular opportunities available to Years 7 and 8 this academic year

This list is ever-evolving and extending and certainly not exhaustive. It will be updated each term and parents/carers will receive information as students are offered different opportunities at different times in each term.

Literacy, Language, Communication & Culture	Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths	Character, Health, Wellbeing & Social Responsibility	The world, the Past, Ideas & Spirituality	Design, Creativity, Performance & the Arts
Turing Project	Junior Maths Challenge Chess Club	Star Awards	SHS History Society	House Music House Drama Full suite of Music Clubs Full suite of Sports Clubs



YEAR 9 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Period 6

In Year 9 all students experience the following in Period 6:

- One choice of complementary activity from the list below (Tuesday)
- One whole year group activity per term (Monday)

Example of activities in 2024/5 and 2025/6:

Monday	Tuesday
Famelab (Terms 1 and 2) House Music (Terms 3 and 4) House Drama (Terms 4 and 5)	Book Club Debating FGR Multisports Badminton Global Social Leaders Decoding Eco Project Intro to Psychology Drama Club



Extra-Curricular opportunities available to Year 9 this academic year

This list is ever-evolving and extending and certainly not exhaustive. It will be updated each term and parents/carers will receive information as students are offered different opportunities at different times in each term.

Literacy, Language, Communication & Culture	Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths	Character, Health, Wellbeing & Social Responsibility	The world, the Past, Ideas & Spirituality	Design, Creativity, Performance & the Arts
Turing Project	Intermediate Maths Challenge Chess Club	Duke of Edinburgh (Bronze)	SHS History Society	School Production Full suite of Music Clubs Full suite of Sports Clubs



Small Group Mentoring

The positive impact of staff being able to mentor students in small groups enables a much closer connection and allows for a greater depth of support. Research also shows us that one of the most protective factors for young people is having a close trusted adult.

In addition to their tutor, all students will also now have a mentor through these years. Mentors will meet with their group weekly during Period 6. Training and support for mentors has been put in place to enable them to create a safe space to help their mentees frame a positive narrative for their experiences of life and school. The success of mentoring will be in the relationship the mentor has with their group. Students have selected their groups to be with friends so that they are comfortable talking and sharing their experiences together.

YEARS 10&11 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Period 6

In Years 10&11 all students experience three elements of Period 6:

- Small group mentoring
- Enrichment activities from the list below. Some students, increasingly in Year 11, may use this as an opportunity to support their academic progress as well as pursue an activity

Example of activities in 2024/5 and 2025/6:

Monday	Tuesday (Y11 only)
Reading Club Book Club Couch to 5k Film Club Chess Journalism Glee Club Active in Mind (Year 10 only) Debating Zumba Philosophy Club	Book Club Debating FGR Multisports Badminton Global Social Leaders Medical Mavericks Decoding Eco Project Intro to Psychology Drama Club
Academic Support: Maths Support (Year 11 only) English Support (Year 11 only) Biology Support (Year 11 only) Chemistry Support (Year 11 only) Physics Support (Year 11 only) Art Support (Year 11 only) Study Support Silver Crest (Year 10 only)	Academic Support: Maths Support English Support Biology Support Chemistry Support Physics Support Product Design Support Textiles Support Food and Nutrition Support Study Support

Extra-Curricular opportunities available to Years 10&11 this academic year

This list is ever-evolving and extending and certainly not exhaustive. It will be updated each term and parents/carers will receive information as students are offered different opportunities at different times in each term.

Literacy, Language, Communication & Culture	Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths	Character, Health, Wellbeing & Social Responsibility	The world, the Past, Ideas & Spirituality	Design, Creativity, Performance & the Arts
Turing Project	Intermediate Maths Challenge Chess Club	Duke of Edinburgh (Silver)	SHS History Society Philosophy Society	School Production Full suite of Music Clubs Full suite of Sports Clubs Combined Cadet Force



YEARS 12&13 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Period 6

During Period 6, students in Years 12&13 are in tutor groups. On Monday and Tuesday, Sixth Form students may be supporting the Period 6 programme in Years 9-11 by leading clubs and societies. On Wednesday, all students have Enrichment time where they can take up a making a difference role in school or out in the wider community, there is also a sport provision at this time. On Thursday and Friday we take part in an intra-tutor current affairs quiz as well as have time to seek UCAS support. We have also launched a tutor programme which covers a wide range of topics such as religious beliefs, wellbeing, safety and finance.

Extra-Curricular and Enrichment opportunities available to Years 12&13 this academic year

This list is ever-evolving and extending and certainly not exhaustive. It will be updated each term and parents/carers will receive information as students are offered different opportunities at different times in each term.

Literacy, Language, Communication & Culture	Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths	Personal Development & Preparing for Next Steps	Humanities & Social Sciences	Design, Performance & the Creative Arts
Philosophy Club Turing Project Hennessey Prize Debating	Senior Maths Challenge Chess Club Gold Crest Award Med/Vet/Dent Society	Duke of Edinburgh (Gold) 11-16 Secondary Mentoring Primary Outreach Access to Bristol	SHS History Society Debating Club Femsoc European Youth Parliament Commission on the Status of Women Philosophy Society	Senior Orchestra Senior String Group School Production U19 Netball Mixed Football Combined Cadet Force





Stroud High School
Beards Lane
Cainscross Road
Stroud
Gloucestershire GL5 4HF

01453 764441
admin@stroudhigh.gloucs.sch.uk
www.stroudhigh.gloucs.sch.uk



@StroudHighSch



@stroud.high